

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES – DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH**  
**OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL DIRECTOR**

August 16, 2011

TO: SMHPs, MHPs, NPs, LTs, Legal Entities

FROM:

  
Wayland Chan, Pharm. D.  
Pharmacy Director

SUBJECT: **ESCITALOPRAM**

Escitalopram has been removed from the uninsured drug formulary and, therefore, requires an approved Treatment Authorization Request (TAR) form.

This restriction does not apply to Medi-Cal or Medicare clients. Any prescriptions for Medi-Cal or Medicare beneficiaries, where escitalopram is one of the prescribed medications, must be written on Medi-Cal approved CMS paper prescriptions and handed to the client for transmittal to a pharmacy. This is due to limitations in the PATS programming, and DMH is working to resolve this issue.

RS:WC:dk

c: Roderick Shaner  
Regional Medical Directors  
District Chiefs  
Program Heads  
Cecilia Garcia  
Gerald Ko  
Carol Swann  
Hector-Jose Reyes